

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)      Method for the production of a sheet metal plate, ~~in particular of steel~~, for the manufacture of motor vehicle body components with at least one local reinforcement zone ~~(13, 14, 21, 22, 34 to 37)~~, ~~characterised by comprising~~ the following steps:

a) producing, in ~~[[In]]~~ a continuous production process, a sheet metal strip ~~(4)~~ ~~is produced with strips (2 to 6) of differing thickness and/or quality running parallel to the longitudinal direction of the sheet strip~~ ~~[[.]]~~;

b) cutting individual ~~Individual~~ sheet metal sections ~~[[ (7) ]]~~ with straight cut edges ~~are cut to length from the sheet metal strip (4); and~~

c) joining a ~~[[A]]~~ first sheet metal section ~~[[ (7) ]]~~ of this sheet metal strip ~~(4)~~ ~~is joined to a second sheet metal section [[ (9) ]]~~, with a join line ~~[[ (10) ]]~~ running straight and transversely to the longitudinal direction of the strips ~~(2, 3, 4, 5)~~ of the first sheet metal section ~~(7)~~, in such a way that the local reinforcement zones ~~(13, 14)~~ come to lie in the strips ~~(2, 3)~~ with greater thickness and/or higher quality.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended)      Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the sheet metal plate is joined from two sheet metal sections ~~(15, 16, 24, 25)~~ of striated sheet strips ~~and, as appropriate, of one non-striated sheet strip.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)      Method according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the striated sheet strips are differently striated.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (New)      Method according to claim 2, wherein the sheet metal plate is joined from two sheet metal sections of striated sheet strips and of one non-striated sheet strip.

Claim 6 (New)      Method according to claim 1, wherein the sheet metal plate is steel.